in order to bring them in tune with the emerging needs of the economy such as increasing production, productivity, employment etc. The required changes in the labour laws are accomplished by the Government after detailed consultation with the social partners with a view to harmonize the interests of all stake holders. Accordingly, Bill to amend Acts, like the Factories Act, 1948, the Labour Laws (Exemption from Furnishing Returns and maintaining registers by Certain Establishments) Act, 1988, the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 and the Plantations Labour Act, 1951 have been introduced in the Parliament.

Use of amount collected as cess for construction workers

1035. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi Government has collected Rs. 140 crores from builders as cess over the years in terms of "Building and Other Construction Workers Cess Act, 1996";

(b) if so, how much has been spent from this amount to improve matters for construction workers who work in harsh conditions and are without a safety net; and

(c) whether the Government of India is having any monitoring mechanism to ensure that workers' welfare, from the Cess under the above Act, who are beneficiaries of the intended welfare?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Cess amounting to Rs. 1,92,47,86,599 (Rupees One hundred ninety two crores forty seven lakhs Eighty six thousand five hundred ninety nine only) has been collected.

(b) Delhi Building and Other Construction Welfare Board has spent Rs. 68,45,548 (Rupees Sixty eight lakhs forty five thousands and five hundred forty eight only) on Welfare Schemes of the Board.

(c) Region wise meetings at regular interval are being held under the chairpersonship of Union Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment, to advise the State Governments for the utilization of cess for the welfare of construction workers registered by the concerned Welfare Boards and monitor the progress in the implementation of the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996.

Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana

1036. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state: